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⑥ ARMORED CAVALRY
RECONNAISSANCE TROOP
M114 (U)

⑦ Interim Test Report, no. 4.
Number

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ACTIV-GM

28 September 1963

SUBJECT: Interim Test Report Number 4 - Armored Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop
(M114) (U)

TO: See Distribution

1. (U) GENERAL

a. The purpose and objectives of the test, description of test units, and discussion of test concepts are contained in Monthly Test Reports Numbers 1 through 3 - Armored Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (M114) (U), Army Concept Team in Vietnam.

b. The last report on the M114 test was Monthly Test Report Nr. 3, which covered the period 1-30 April and was published on 10 July 1963. Since that report was published, M114 armored cavalry reconnaissance troop operations have been limited primarily to route and area security, and monthly reports have not been produced. This interim report contains significant information that has been obtained since 30 April.

c. The estimate of 25 percent test completion is unchanged.

2. (C) OPERATIONS

a. During the month of August one operation was observed that involved a cross-reinforced troop employing M113 armored personnel carriers and M114 command and reconnaissance vehicles. In terms of enemy contact, this operation does not warrant inclusion in this report. It does represent, however, the first opportunity offered to observe a cross-reinforced troop in an offensive combat role and is considered significant for this reason.

b. Observations contained in this report are in no sense intended to offer a comparison between the M113 and the M114; however, it must be emphasized that operational compatibility of the two vehicles is essential. In this regard, it should be noted that the M113 has assumed the role of the tank in the Republic of Vietnam. Since the M114 possesses the same armament and amphibious capability as the M113, the M114 may be reasonably expected to operate with the M113 to perform the same function in counterinsurgency operations. For this reason, the following comments, extracted from the observer report (Operation vic TAY NINH Province, 10-18 August 1963), are considered appropriate:

(1) "The M114s frequently mired down in areas which the M113s negotiated without difficulty."

(2) "It should be noted here that the M113s usually became stuck as a result of trying to retrieve the M114s. The M114s had difficulty in keeping up with the M113s everywhere except on hard-surfaced roads."

(3) "The M114 reduces the speed of cross country maneuverability of the M113 troop."

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(4) "The troop commander has used the M114 on a trial basis for approximately three months. He is dissatisfied with it in that it cannot keep up with the M113 during cross-country marches. He feels that it is underpowered, shifts down to its lower gears too quickly, and is extremely rough riding. He also mentioned that the travel lock for the .50 caliber machine gun will disengage when the vehicle hits at certain angles."

(5) Average mileage: M113s - 4500 miles/vehicle

M114s - 2500 miles/vehicle

3. (U) LOGISTICS

a. In coordination with ARPA, action was initiated on 13 June 1963 to procure six sets of modification equipment to improve the cross-country mobility of the M114. This equipment consists of the items listed below and is considered as the minimum for insuring test validity of the modifications under operational conditions in Vietnam.

- (1) Aggressive track
- (2) Re-indexed torsion bar anchors
- (3) Shock absorber bumper stops
- (4) Flexible fenders
- (5) Road wheel lever arms

b. As of 1 September, only one set of aggressive track and six sets of flexible fenders had been received. This leaves an outstanding requirement of:

- (1) Aggressive track (5 sets)
- (2) Re-indexed torsion bar anchors (5 sets)
- (3) Shock absorber bumper stops (6 sets)
- (4) Road wheel lever arms (6 sets)

4. (C) FINDINGS

a. The cross country mobility of the M114 must be compatible with that of the M113.

b. Six sets of modification equipment, as outlined in paragraph 3a, above, are essential for insuring validity of test of the modifications under operational conditions in the Republic of Vietnam.

5. (U) REFERENCES

a. DA letter, AGAM-P(M) 381 (31 Oct 62) DCSOPS, subject: "Army Troop Test Program in Vietnam (U)," 6 November 1962, as amended.

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ACTIV-GM

28 September 1963

SUBJECT: **Interim Test Report Number 4 - Armored Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (M114) (U)**

b. ACTIV letter (to CGUSACDC), subject: "Plan of Test, Mechanized Rifle Troop (M113)," 28 November 1962.

c. ACTIV letter (to CINCPAC through COMU1ACV), subject: "Summary of Test Plan for Mechanized Rifle Troop (M113)" 3 December 1962.

d. CINCPAC message, DTG 220216Z Jan 63, subject: "Proposal for US Army Tests in Vietnam."

e. Monthly Test Reports Numbers 1 through 3, Armored Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (M114) (U), Army Concept Team in Vietnam.

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Interim Test Report Number Four -- Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop (M114)

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